



Indiana German Heritage Society



Newsletter

Volume 41 Number 3

Summer 2025

Sommerzeit 2025!

Letter from the IGHS President

I hope you are enjoying the summertime with family and friends! Here are some quick IGHS updates:

The IGHS has awarded the following Cultural Enhancement Funding (CEF) Grants:

The **Indianapolis Liederkranz German Band** sought financial support for its expanded **2026 Spring Konzert** to secure a larger venue and fund a targeted marketing campaign, in response to growing participation and community interest.

Fort Wayne's GermanFest event, *FamilienFest*, draws approximately 4,000 attendees annually with free, family-friendly activities celebrating German heritage. A popular feature is *German Story Time*, which introduces families to German folklore through engaging storytelling. For 2025, *FamilienFest* plans to enhance this experience by featuring costumed, German-themed princess performers who will bring these stories to life through interactive performances. To support this enhancement, *FamilienFest* has requested funds from the Indiana German Heritage Society's Cultural Enhancement Fund to cover performer costs.

Sister Cities of Jasper is soliciting funds to erect a permanent historical monument in both Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. This monument will honor the strong, enduring relationship between the two communities

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Indianapolis German Language School ("Samstagsschule")

Fall Semester 2025

The Indianapolis German School is transitioning from an outreach program administered by Indiana University Indianapolis to an independent non-profit organization, with support from the Indiana German Heritage Society. Our new name

is **Indianapolis German Language School**. The Fall semester will start with a Welcome Picnic on August 16. Children's classes start August 23 and end on December 13.



The Saturday School has been operating since 1984. The School is a language and culture program for children aged four through middle school. Children will

learn the language in an immersion environment, with age-appropriate activities highlighting the culture of German-speaking countries. Students of all skill levels can be accommodated; no background is necessary except for our advanced group ("Mittelschule"). We are also offering short courses for adults now. Classes meet on Saturday mornings on the campus of the International School of Indiana, located north of the Newfields art museum in Indianapolis. Children's classes meet for 13 Saturdays per semester (with several breaks to accommodate school and holiday schedules). In addition, we are planning to offer two short courses for adults: one for intermediate speakers (6 Saturdays), and a new four-week mini course ("Schnupperkurs") for beginners. Adult

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classes will start after Labor Day. The fee for one child is \$250, with discounts for multiple children enrolled. Adult courses are \$100 (4-weeks) or \$125 (6 weeks). IGHS members will receive a 10% discount on course fees.

We are still looking for instructors for the elementary school level. Instructors receive compensation and may bring their own children to attend school at no cost. If you are interested in getting involved, or if you have questions on our course offerings, please contact Lucy Wright, President of the Indianapolis German Language School, at indianapolisgerlang-school@gmail.com. To register for classes please check our homepage in the early summer. Registration will begin in late June.

Keep your heritage alive and brush up on your German!

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and their shared heritage in stone carving. It will feature a visual display of key activities and milestones from their successful 40-year partnership.

The **Fishers Historical Society** requested a CEF grant to purchase and install a historical marker commemorating Germantown at Geist Reservoir. Established in 1834, Germantown was the oldest township in Marion County.

In other news.....The **Indiana German Language School (IGLS)** is nearing the completion of its transition to an independent school, having formerly been associated with the Indiana University Department of World Languages. IGLS offers German classes to both children and adults on Saturdays and is located at the International School of Indiana. The IGHS will continue to partner with the IGLS by providing both financial and leadership support.

A warm welcome to **Mary Leah Siegel**, who joins the IGHS Board of Directors from the Jasper area in

southwest Indiana. We look forward to her participation, insight, and contributions as we continue to enhance IGHS's role as a statewide organization dedicated to promoting, celebrating, and preserving Indiana's German heritage.

The **IGHS** gratefully acknowledges another generous donation from **Reverend Art Schwenk** — *Danke, Art!*

The **IGHS** will be participating in the celebration of the recent historical inscription at **St. Mary's Catholic Church** in Indianapolis on **August 23**.

The **IGHS** recently received a donated, encased model German ship titled *Wappen von Hamburg* from **Bruce Bollenbach** of Eads, Tennessee. It is expected the model will be displayed at the **Athe-naeum**. *Danke, Bruce!*

Repairs to the **German Newspapers' Demise** historical marker are complete, and the marker was recently delivered. Arrangements are being made with the **Cultural Trails Committee** to install the marker in the coming weeks just south of **Lugar Plaza**.

I hope to see you at the August Stammtisch.

Alles Gute und bis dann,

Brian Griesemer
IGHS President



Indiana Germanic
Business Council

Austrian Delegation Visits Indianapolis for Railway Interchange

Last month, IGBC was delighted to visit the Advantage Austria booth at the Railway Interchange Convention in downtown Indianapolis. At the con-

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2025 Indy 500 Festival Parade

By Marcia Gascho

High School Essay

Frankenmuth, Michigan

By Jack Reynolds

Carmel High School



On May 24th I walked with the Nationalities Council of Indiana groups in the 500 Festival Parade. There were many ethnic groups wearing their native clothing. Several of us represented Germany and wore German clothes. We

had lovely weather and large enthusiastic crowds cheered us along the route. Beth Line from GAK taught our board member Worth Hartman some dance steps and they performed along the route. A Mexican group performed some spirited dances behind us throughout the parade.

I have walked in the 500 Festival Parade many times. I really enjoy seeing all the floats, bands, balloons, race car drivers and other groups. It is always wonderful to meet people from the different nationalities and learn about their clothing and culture. At the end of the route, many of us posed for a group picture on the steps of the Library.

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ference, our team met with Linsinger Maschinenbau GmbH, Hexagon AB, NKE AUSTRIA GmbH, RIEGL, & Wieland Group to learn more about their company's business interests in the U.S. market.

Roche Diagnostics Announces \$550M Expansion in Indianapolis

Last month, Roche Diagnostics announced it will invest up to \$550M in its Indianapolis-based operations over the next 5 years, adding hundreds of skilled jobs and establishing the city as a global manufacturing center for the company's continuous glucose monitoring system. Roche's Indianapolis campus currently employs 4,815 people and already serves as one of two global distribution hubs for the company, supporting shipments to 53 countries.

Frankenmuth, Michigan, known as "Michigan's Little Bavaria" is closely tied to its roots with German-speaking people and German immigrants, reflected in many of its businesses, residents, and architecture. Frankenmuth was founded in the year 1844 by a group of Bavarian emigrants, with the goal of developing a Lutheran community to support other German groups settling in the United States who lacked German pastors, churches, and schools. Planned by Wilhelm Loehe and led by Pastor August Craemer, 15 Bavarian emigrants journeyed to Michigan, purchased 680 acres of land, and began construction on their community. Its name originates from a combination of the province of Franconia within the Kingdom of Bavaria and the word "Mut", meaning courage. The people of Frankenmuth were very proud of their Bavarian culture and swore to be faithful to the German language.

Two years after the initial group of people journeyed to the United States, another 90 Bavarian immigrants came to the community in order to seek better opportunities, among this group were some of the first major business owners that would shape the city's early history. John M. and John G. Hubinger, who arrived at the colony from Bavaria in 1846, constructed one of the first businesses in Frankenmuth, creating a saw mill in 1848. This mill was incredibly important in the early construction of the town, as it meant that the residents of the town now did not have to look outside of their own community for building materials, and could instead source them all locally. The Hubingers also constructed the town's first flour mill soon after, as the residents of Frankenmuth also did not have a place to create bread flour locally. John M. Hubinger would also create a grocery store in 1851 that would continue operation under the Hubinger

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Tracing Your German Roots By Allison DePrey Singleton

Indiana's German heritage runs deep. From town names like Oldenburg and Bremen to the enduring cultural traditions passed down through generations, the influence of German immigrants is all around us. If you've ever wondered about your own German ancestry, you're not alone—and there are some great resources to help you get started.

The best place to begin is often right at home. Talk with relatives, look through old family papers, photographs, letters, and keepsakes. Even small details—like a name, hometown, or immigration date—can open the door to new discoveries.

Once you have some starting information, it's time to dig deeper. The Indiana German Heritage Society offers tools and guidance to help researchers connect with their German roots.

There's a wealth of material out there for tracing German ancestry, including:

- Historic maps like the *Atlas des Deutschen Reichs* that help locate ancestral towns
- Immigration and passenger lists, including arrivals at Ellis Island and departures from Hamburg
- Emigration records from places like Württemberg
- Online databases such as Genealogy.net (also known as CompGen), which offers a wide range of German family history resources

Closer to home, the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne has one of the largest genealogy collections in the country, with many resources focused on German-American families—including materials specific to Indiana.

Tracing your roots is more than just finding names and dates—it's about connecting with a shared past. That's why the Indiana German Heritage Society also offers events, workshops, and programs that celebrate German culture and history in Indiana. You don't have to do it alone—there's a whole community here to learn with and from.

Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter

Researching your family history can be a powerful way to honor those who came before you and preserve their stories for future generations. Whether you're just getting started or looking to fill in the missing pieces, the Indiana German Heritage Society is here to help.

Visit ighs.org to explore resources, upcoming events, and ways to get involved.

JASPER INDIANA STRASSENFEST

JULY 31 - AUGUST 3, 2025

Join us July 31-August 3 to celebrate our heritage, support the amazing non-profit booths and events, and create memories! Seeing the community spirit and smiles of festival-goers is why we do what we do. We're counting down the days! [#JasperStrassenfest](https://www.ighs.org/jasper-strassenfest)



APPLY FOR AN IGHS CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT FUND GRANT

The Indiana German Heritage Society supports cultural events and exhibits in Indiana as a key part of our cultural enhancement mission to support and preserve German culture, heritage, and traditions. The IGHS-cultural enhancement fund accepts applications for limited funding in line with those goals. See application form below. Next deadline is August 1, 2025. <https://www.ighs.org/cultural-enhancement-fund.html>



Camp Brosius: By Marcia Gascho

I recently obtained an old Normal College of North American Gymnastics Union yearbook. I was very interested in the numerous social activities and clubs the students participated in while they studied at the Athenaeum. Also mentioned in the yearbook are the



annual summer school classes at Camp Brosius on Elkhart Lake in Wisconsin. During the nineteenth century Elkhart Lake became a popular place to vacation with hotels and cottages being built along the shore. One of these hotels and the surrounding land was purchased by the Normal College in 1920 for use as a summer training facility. Many students traveled there by train. Originally students stayed in tents which were later replaced by cabins paid for by an alumni fund.

The camp was named for George Brosius, long-time Normal College director in Milwaukee from 1875 to 1899. Brosius was a German - American gymnastics teacher associated from 1854 to 1915 with the Milwaukee Turnverein. He served in the Union Army from 1861 to 1864. He introduced physical education to the Milwaukee public schools in 1875 and supervised it until 1883. In 1880 he took seven members of the Milwaukee Turnverein to an international gymnastics tournament in Frankfurt am Main, where they won a number of individual prizes.

The early years of the camp were very successful. Normal College students earned course credit while having an outdoor experience away from city life. The camp began offering children's camp sessions in 1937. However, due to financial problems during the Second World War, the Normal College established a partnership with Indiana University. President Wells facilitated a merger between the College and IU in 1941, and through this merger acquired Camp Brosius. Under the management of the Univer-

sity, the children's sessions continued, and faculty were encouraged to spend their vacations there. Meetings of the IU Board of Trustees were held at the camp from time to time as well.

In 1974, under the leadership of the IU Alumni Association, Camp Brosius expanded its outreach to include alumni association members and their fami-



lies during the eight-week camp season. College courses continued each May. Camp Brosius management was transferred in 2004 to its original Normal College home, now called the School of Health & Human Sciences at IUI. Students seeking degrees in exercise science, fitness management and personal training, physical education teacher education, and sports management still take required coursework in leadership at Camp Brosius in May and August.

Several generations of guests have strong university ties and have annual reunions at Camp Brosius. Because of the wonderful time many guests had as kids through the children's and/or alumni family camp, they return with their own children. Guests bring friends, and these friends return, bringing their friends and families. As families arrive, they're given a traditional Camp Brosius welcome: Camp counselors sing the IU and Camp Brosius songs. The welcoming songs are part of the camp's tradition that reflects a history dating back nearly 100 years. A man in one of my Athenaeum tours told me about some of his enjoyable times there. It has been named one of America's top summer camps.

Camp Brosius now hosts retreats, reunions, business meetings, conferences, and more. Some guests who met as counselors have married on the property. Other guests who are business owners have arranged to host clients on the property for events.

Interested in some summer reading? Here is a list of books with some being from IGHS members:

Most publications can be found [NCSA Literatur](http://NCSA.Literatur) site or ighs.org

German Settlers of South Bend, Voices of America, Arcadia, 2003

Api's Berlin Diaries, She Writes Press, 2020 The book is about 1945 and we are just celebration the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe

Holtmann, Antonius. *A Lost American Dream. Civil War Letters (1862/63) of Immigrant Theodor Heinrich Brandes in Historical Contexts.* Trans. by Eberhard Reichmann. IGHS, 2005.

Krapf, Norbert (ed.) *Finding the Grain. Pioneer German Journals and Letters from Dubois County, Indiana.* Rev. & expanded edition. IGHS, 1997.

Peake, Michael A. *Indiana's German Sons. 32nd Volunteer Infantry - Baptism of Fire: Rowlett's Station 1861* IGHS, 2000.

Reichmann, Eberhard (ed.) *Hoosier German Tales - Small & Tall.* (1991)

Reichmann, Eberhard and LaVern J. Rippley, Joerg Nagler (eds.) *Emigration and Settlement Patterns of German Communities in North America* (1995)

Sommerfrüchte (Summer fruits from an American monastery garden or the Convent of the Benedictine Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at Ferdinand, Dubois County, IN, USA). 1898 / translated by Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann.

Hofmann, Annette *American Turner Movement: A History from its Beginnings.* IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center and Indiana German Heritage Society, 2010.

Adams, Willi Paul. *The German-Americans. An Eth-*

nic Experience. American edition by LaVern J. Rippley & Eberhard Reichmann. IGHS, 1993.

Fifty Years of Unrelenting German Aspirations in Indianapolis, 1848-1898. (Theodore Stempfel's 1898 Festschrift) Bilingual edition by G.R. Hoyt et al (eds.); IGHS, 1991.

Tolzmann, Don Heinrich (ed.) *The German-American Forty-Eighters, 1848-1998.* IGHS, 1998.

Rosenfeld Resigns from Carmel Christkindlmarkt



Maria Adele Rosenfeld, who helped launch the Carmel Christkindlmarkt in 2017, submitted her letter of resignation to the CCI board April 28, with her resignation becoming effective two days later. She described the resignation as an “incredibly difficult decision.”

IGHS is happy to note that Maria will continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, and IGHS will continue to support the Kulturecke, a very popular and educational exhibit of German cultural contributions to current American Christmas traditions. The Carmel Christkindlmarkt will continue under new leadership starting Nov. 22 through December 24.



**Celebrate Your
German Heritage!
Join the Indiana German Her-
itage Society and
Belong Today!**

IGHS.ORG



SCAN HERE
FOR MORE
INFO

Registration Deadline: August 15th



FALL
2025

Deutsche Samstagsschule

German language and culture classes for children from Pre-K to Middle School. The school strives to immerse students from diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds into the cultures of German speaking countries. Instruction by native or bilingual speakers in small groups. Short courses for adult beginners.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:**

LUCY WRIGHT

indianapolisgerlangschool@gmail.com

CLASSES HELD AT:

International School of Indiana
4330 N. Michigan Road,
Indianapolis, IN 46208

CHILDREN'S CLASSES
August 23rd - December 13th
9:30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.
13 Saturdays total

Tuition Rates

includes all materials

One child: \$250

Two children: \$375

Three children: \$450

ADULT SHORT COURSES

INTERMEDIATE

September 6th - October 11th

10am-11:30am

6 Saturdays: \$120

(textbooks may be rented)

INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN

BEGINNERS MINI COURSE

4 Saturdays in Sept/Oct

Specific Dates TBD

\$100 (materials included)

10% for IGHS members or early bird registration by August 1st

Indiana Chapter of Palatines to America German Genealogy Fall Meeting

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Whether you're just beginning your family history journey or have been researching for years, the Indiana Chapter of Palatines to America invites you to a day of discovery and learning on Saturday, August 2nd. Join us for "Finding and Deciphering German Records" on Zoom or at the West Perry Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. The program runs from 10:45 AM to 3:45 PM EDT, with registration beginning at 10:15 AM EDT. The cost is \$30 for PalAm members and \$40 for nonmembers or registrations after July 19.

This year's featured speaker is Dana Palmer, CG®, CGL(SM), a nationally known genealogist and lecturer specializing in Midwestern research and German ancestry. Dana brings a wealth of knowledge from her work with lineage society applications, family book publishing, and the Mayflower Silver Books team. She has lectured at top genealogical conferences, including RootsTech and the National Genealogical Society.

The program will explore FamilySearch, focusing on locating records and making the most of available digital and onsite resources. Dana will also provide essential instruction on one of the biggest challenges for German researchers—deciphering old German handwriting—with a dedicated session on tools and strategies to interpret German documents accurately.

For details and registration, visit inpalam.org. Please contact indianapalam@gmail.com with any questions. Attendees are eligible for LEU credit. This program is not sponsored by the Indianapolis Public Library.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain practical skills, connect with fellow researchers, and find your German ancestors. Mark your calendar for August 2nd, and take the next step forward in your genealogical journey!



We have changed our **membership** software, so please be on the lookout for your membership renewal and donation request!

family until 1971. These businesses were incredibly important to the early development of Frankemuth, and would shape the creation and development of the city. Businesses such as the Old Cass River Brewing Company, the first financially successful brewery in Frankemuth, which was founded by William Knaust and Martin Heubush in 1862, allowed for the town's population to keep some of their culture alive through their practices of brewing Bavarian style beer. In Frankemuth's early history, the town almost entirely consisted of Bavarian emigrants that built the town and felt a large responsibility to keep their culture alive even while living in the United States.

Throughout time, as the residents of the town began to be more people born in the United States and people who moved to the town from places other than Bavaria, the residents' loyalty to their culture and language never wavered. As the town grew to become a city, most of the residents continued to speak German as a primary or secondary language, and most of the population continued to practice Lutheranism and Bavarian cultural traditions. For most of its history Frankemuth was relatively isolated culturally and physically, due to the less developed methods of travel in the US, but this would drastically change post World War Two, with the creation of the American highway system, and more specifically I-75, when a new influx of people would pass through the city. The residents of the city quickly found that many of the people visiting were charmed by the pride the residents had for their German heritage and language. This would lead to the residents of Frankemuth catering to the newfound success of the city as a tourist destination, and remodeling and rebranding many of the businesses and hotels in the city in Alpine style architecture and decoration, such as Zehnder's Restaurant, the owners of which's ancestry can be traced back to some of the first Bavarian immigrants to the city. An annual "Bavarian Festival" would also be developed to

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German Convoy Escort Ship “Wappen von Hamburg” comes to IGHS

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The IGHS is the new owner of the “Wappen von Hamburg” model ship that was donated by Bruce Bollenbach from Eads, TN. He inherited the ship from Fred Tournier, a friend and professional model ship builder from Colorado who died in 2016. Fred is one of only a handful of people nationwide who had made a living making and repairing ship models for museums and private parties. He built models from scratch, repaired old models, and drew up plans for ships others would like to have built .



In the years 1662 – 1667 the City of Hamburg lost altogether 13 trading vessels to pirates, and the shipping of the city was nearly disrupted. In 1667 the citizenry decided to build two strong warships as “convoy ships.”



The Wappen von Hamburg was built in the Deichor shipyard in Hamburg by a Dutch shipbuilding master. The construction work started in spring of 1667 and the ship took up service in 1669.

From 1669 the ship served as an escort vessel. In October 1683, on a trip to Cadiz, a fire started and reached the gunpowder depot causing a terrible explosion that destroyed the ship.

The model is built to a scale of 1:40 and features a plank on the bulkhead hull with metal brass fittings. The model was researched and custom modified.

Again, thank you to Bruce Bollenbach for his kind donation. The model ship is expected to be on display at the Athenaeum in the near future.

celebrate the city's cultural heritage. A new historical district was also formed in the City to preserve the existing architecture of the city as well as implementing more Bavarian style architecture in future projects. The celebration of the city's Bavarian culture has become a central component in its economy and although the city has grown and become less isolated, its residents are still proud of their Bavarian culture and German language. According to a census from 2010, 49.3% of the about 5,000 residents of Frankenmuth report German as their largest ancestry group, and according to a survey from 2000, 8.7% of the residents of Frankenmuth spoke German primarily at home. The Bavarian origins of the city of Frankenmuth have defined the town since its creation and continue to in the modern day as it has become a well known attraction in Michigan today.

Although it has been over 175 years since the city of Frankenmuth began, the influence of its German-speaking founders has stayed strong through the upheld cultural traditions, language, and religion that the modern city residents practice to this day. German-speaking people and German immigrants have had an undeniable influence on Frankenmuth, the founders and majority of the population of the town for most of its history being German-speakers, as well as the modern day Frankenmuth being greatly proud of their cultural heritage and ancestry that has defined the city and shaped it into what it is today.



Let's Welcome Our New IGHS Board of Director:

Mary Leah Siegel

I am a first generation American on my father's side of the family. My father, Gregor Gertz, was from Stadtlahn, Germany, where many of my cousins and extended family still live today. My father emigrated to the United States in 1963 and became a U.S. citizen in 1969. He was the youngest of eight children and maintaining family ties, preserving his German heritage, and celebrating the immigrant experience was an integral part of my upbringing. This is a huge part of why I visit Germany as often as I can and why I am excited about preserving German heritage in Indiana.



I am passionate about all things German! I feel it is so important to maintain connections and lasting relationships in order to learn about and to preserve our German history and heritage. I have been a board member of the Sister Cities of Jasper, Indiana-Pfaffenweiler, Germany since 2017.

As the representative from Sister Cities on the Jasper DeutscherVerein Board of Directors, my goal is to serve as a conduit between the two groups, to help to further our common goals, and to share our passion for our sister city of Pfaffenweiler, Germany. As a member of the Sister Cities of Indiana, my goal is to showcase and promote people to people diplomacy, exchanges and cultural activities between partnering sister cities.

I have been married for 27 years to Paul Siegel (former President of the Jasper DeutscherVerein). We have two children, Bryce Siegel, age 26 and Drake Siegel, age 24. Both of whom attended Jasper schools and Jasper High School where both were students in the Sister Cities of Jasper German student exchanges of 2015 and 2017.

Siegel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Political Science from Indiana University and a master's in business administration from the University of Southern Indiana.

High School Essay

Milwaukee: The German Athens of America

By Adeyn Booras
Chesterton Senior High School

“Das Deutsch-Athen Amerikas,” or “the German Athens of America,” as Milwaukee, Wisconsin was historically known as, has been a central hub of German culture in America since the nineteenth century. Located in the German Triangle, Milwaukee is home to more German-Americans than any other city in the United States. While World War II temporarily hindered the celebration of German culture, the impact of the German-speaking population can still be seen today throughout the city in its churches, stores, schools, restaurants, baseball fields, and more.

Starting in the 1840s, over a million Germans immigrated to the United States as a result of economic hardship and political unrest. With them came their traditions, cuisine, religion, holidays, and language. In 1846, Old St. Mary's Church, currently the oldest church in Milwaukee, was built by German Catholics, and each of its first four archbishops spoke German. Multiple breweries sprung up around this time as German immigrants restarted their businesses in a new country. The schools were taught in German, and many German newspapers popped up, as well. The German language was so prominently used in Milwaukee that some stores hung up signs stating, “English Spoken Here,” so that the non-Germans knew that they would still be able to shop there. As written in *The Making of Milwaukee Stories*, “Milwaukeeans knew that their city was a very German place” (“The Germans Settle in Milwau-

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Käthe Kollwitz Exhibition at Newfields By Claudia Grossmann

The Newfields art museum in Indianapolis is currently showing work by one of the most prominent German printmakers and artists of the 20th century, Käthe Kollwitz (1867-1945). Kollwitz was internationally known and respected not only for her artwork, but also as an advocate for social justice, social change, and peace. *Käthe Kollwitz: Visions of Solidarity and Resilience* opened in February and runs through August 3.

A recent article in Forbes magazine states: “It would be possible to visit the Indianapolis Art Museum for its Käthe Kollwitz exhibition and not think the artist born 150 years ago was making art for America in 2025. Not easy, but possible.”

Kollwitz’s art depicting the grief of mothers in the wake of war has produced some of the most impactful and well-known images of pain and suffering. Kollwitz lost her 18-year old son Peter shortly after the outbreak of World War I. Her print series »Krieg« (War) addresses her personal pain and insight during that time. To this day, her representation of poverty, war, and suffering is considered timeless and universal. Kollwitz also made history as the first woman to be appointed as a full member of the Preußische Akademie der Künste, a position from which she was forced to resign by the National Socialists. During the Nazi era, her works were removed from German museums as part of the campaign »Entartete Kunst« (Degenerate Art). Her poster »Nie wieder Krieg« (Never again War), produced for the Central German Convention of Young Socialist Workers in Leipzig, became an icon of the peace movement after World War II.

In 1902, the **New York Public Library** was the first public collection in the USA to acquire her prints, and ten years later presented the first sole exhibition of Kollwitz’s works in the country. Following the rise of Hitler, interest in her work expanded significantly in the US. The *Art Museum Worcester* (Massachusetts) staged a Kollwitz exhibition in 1933, in 1934 Harvard University showed prints by the artist, and in 1937 there was a show at the *Hudson Gallery* in New York. Her work can be found in several museums in the U.S., including the Na-

tional Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and the Museum of Modern Art in NYC. MoMa held a major retrospective of her art in 2024, a show that not only highlighted the artist’s technical excellence but impressed with her unwavering commitment to compassion and humanity in the face of war and loss. The show strung a chord especially during times of major political conflicts domestically and abroad.

“I have no right to withdraw from the responsibility of being an advocate,” Kollwitz once wrote. “It is my duty to voice the sufferings of men, the never-ending sufferings heaped mountain-high.” 80 years after her death, Käthe Kollwitz remains a powerful voice of compassion, humanity, and resilience in turbulent times.

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kee”). Since it was Milwaukee’s largest immigrant group, the German-speaking population had a crucial role in building up the city. They founded many of its businesses and organizations, held German festivals, and spread the German language. Some American Milwaukeeans even took the time to learn German, as it was so widely used in the city. The fact that German was spoken so much throughout the city encouraged even more German immigrants to move there, as the stress of learning a new language was relieved.

Germans have almost always outnumbered other nationalities in Milwaukee. Over the years, immigrants have come from New England, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean countries. In 1880, the conducted census stated that of Milwaukee County residents, fifty-eight percent of them had a German-born father (“Peoples”). Even over a century later, in 1990, almost half of people living in the Milwaukee area had a relative born in Germany. One of the main reasons for the high

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IGHS meeting highlights German ties to Indiana's early advances in mental health

By Jeff Swiatek

IGHS members and guests learned about the strong German connection to Indiana's pioneering advances in treating mental illness in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The IGHS June meeting took place at the Indiana Medical History Museum in Indianapolis, located in the historic Old Pathology Building on the grounds of the former Central State Hospital.

The pathology building opened in 1896 under the leadership of then-hospital Superintendent Dr. George Edenharter, who was born in Ohio to German immigrant parents. Pathology in the late 1800s was a new field of medical study, largely active only in Germany and France. Edenharter saw pathology studies as a way to seek cures and better lives for the hospital's mentally ill patients.

About 25 IGHS members and guests toured the 19-room museum that looks much like it did in its early years, with a 100-seat amphitheater for medical lectures, a specimen room and a small morgue. Surrounding the museum is a medicinal plant garden that was in full bloom.

After Edenharter's death in 1923 he was replaced by Dr. Max Bahr, another second-generation German-American, who was a native of Indiana and held a doctorate in psychological medicine from the University of Berlin. Bahr quickly hired a visiting German doctor, Dr. Walter Bruetsch, who earned a medical degree from Freiburg, to fill the role as hospital pathologist in 1924.

Bahr remained in his post until 1952 and Bruetsch stayed on staff until 1967. Bruetsch played an important role while at Central State in treating malaria and testing penicillin. He also is to thank for using his influence to save the Old Pathology Building from the wrecking ball and establish the Indiana Medical History Museum. The tour also included a pitch-in picnic.

Thanks to IGHS board members Ron and Don Flick for organizing the evening event!



IGHS held its June 2025 monthly meeting at the Indiana Medical History Museum.

High School Essay

“Oh, I Wish I Were An
Oscar Mayer Wiener”

By: Harper Barrett
Carmel High School

My bologna has a first name, and it's O-S-C-A-R. The bologna and cheese sandwich is an American classic, and for many, it is hard to imagine a childhood that did not have Kraft Singles and Oscar Mayer Bologna between slices of bread coated in Heinz mustard. Oscar Mayer, Kraft, and Heinz are all beloved food companies, but what do they have in common? They were all founded by either first or second generation German immigrants. Without German immigration to various U.S. cities, we would be without these lunchtime staples. One of these such cities is Chicago, Illinois, where both Oscar Mayer and Kraft are headquartered. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, German immigrant populations in the Midwest, specifically Chicago, increased exponentially, and many of these immigrants set up shop, which unbeknownst to them,

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number of German settlers here was that Germany was dealing with political instability and financial hardships, and land in Wisconsin was cheap. “‘There wasn’t this sort of magic attraction to Wisconsin that they would pass over Ohio or someplace like that,’ said Mark Loudon, director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. ‘At the time that they came, that was where the land was most available and least expensive’” (Kertscher). Many native Germans were farmers, and in the 1800s there were crop failures in Germany that made it difficult for traditional farmers to make a living. There was plenty of land up for grabs in Wisconsin, so many Germans made the choice to sail across the Atlantic Ocean. The Revolution of 1848 spurred even more people to emigrate from Germany. These “Forty-Eighters” fled their homeland as a result of fear, persecution, and a loss of hope that things would get better.

There were many Germans who made an important mark on Milwaukee’s history. One such person was Peter Engelmann, a freethinker and journalist who moved to Milwaukee in 1851. He provided many collections to the Milwaukee Public Museum, which is currently the most popular museum in the state and the eighteenth most visited museum in the country. Another famous German settler of Milwaukee was Forty-Eighter Mathilde Anneke, publisher of the first feminist journal. She spoke out about women’s and African Americans’ rights, even working with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the women’s suffrage movement (“Anneke, Mathilde, 1817-1884”). Like Engelmann, Anneke ran a school in Milwaukee until her death in 1884. Finally, the Usinger family is well known today in Milwaukee and nationwide for their delicious sausages, which they started serving in 1880. After coming over in 1870, Fred Usinger worked and saved his money until he was able to start his own sausage shop. His business has been successfully serving Milwaukee and beyond ever since, even having the honor of providing the hot dogs at the 2002 Winter Olympics. There are also many German brewers such as Frederick Miller, the Best family, Frederick Pabst, and Joseph Schlitz who

helped form Milwaukee into what it is today.

Despite facing opposition during World War II, German culture is still alive and well in Milwaukee today. Many German restaurants can be found throughout the city, and every year Milwaukee holds its annual German Fest to celebrate the German culture that helped shape its identity. Today Milwaukee even has a public elementary school where the primary language of instruction is German! German culture is celebrated throughout the city, and its baseball team is even named the Milwaukee Brewers after the German breweries this city is famous for. The city of Milwaukee was mostly influenced by and built up by the Germans who settled there. In his poem “Da waren Deutsche auch dabei” (“At Your Side There Were Germans, Too”), German-American poet Konrad Krez describes how America was also built by the Germans. Translated by Dr. Robert E. Ward, part of the poem reads: “At your [Americans’] side there were Germans too. // And though your art and your sciences now / Bring their strength and power to this land, / their fame rests still on the German brow, / ‘Twas mostly done by German hand.” Krez is saying that even though the intellect of America brings it power and strength now, that strength first came from the hard work and grit of immigrants. Milwaukee may be a large, modern city, but we have the ordinary, everyday German people to thank for what it is today.

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went on to have a large influence on American culture today.

It is no secret that many cities in Midwest America have had significant German influence. But why did so many Germans decide to pack up and leave their homes? And what drew them to the Midwest specifically? Germans chose to leave Germany for a variety of reasons. Some of these reasons include fear due to political unrest, which later boiled up into a revolution in the year 1848, as well as economic hardships (Irish and German Immigration).

(Continued on page 14)

Another factor that led Germans to leave was religious persecution. Many Christian minorities chose to come to America in order to practice their religion more freely (Lüber). Once in the United States, the Midwest became the obvious choice to settle down for many German immigrants. The midwest is known for its rich farmlands, which were very appealing for the majority farmers that moved to America. Furthermore, many of these Germans had the means to travel further into the country (Irish and German Immigration). Many other immigrant groups did not have the luxury of settling wherever they pleased, which is what has led to the different distributions of immigrant populations in the country today. Overall, Germans chose to leave for a variety of reasons, and they chose the Midwest as their new home.

After settling in the Midwest, many Germans chose to start their own businesses in order to provide for themselves and their families. One of these people was Oscar F. Mayer. He moved from Bavaria to Chicago at the age of only fourteen in 1873. Oscar went from a butcher's boy, to getting a job in meat packaging, and eventually started the Oscar Mayer brand in 1883, and it was an immediate hit for Oscar, as he earned about one thousand eight hundred dollars in today's money on the first day (Oscar Mayer). Around the time Oscar Mayer was founded, Chicago became reputable for its overall unhygienic, yet incredibly large meat packing industry. In 1906, Sinclair wrote the novel *The Jungle* in order to address the issue, which led to the Meat Inspection Act being created (Wade). In the nineteen twenties, government inspectors began grading beef and other meat products, and Oscar Mayer was one of the first to offer up its products and facilities for testing. They used these new inspections for their advantage, marketing themselves as a trustworthy brand (Bring Home the Bacon). This is one of many marketing tactics used by Oscar Mayer that allowed them to stake their claim in the lives, and grocery stores, of Americans.

Though many companies founded by German-Americans had humble beginnings, the impact they end up making on American culture is evident. One of the most iconic vehicles of all time is arguably the

Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. Created in order to market their products, the Wienermobile still roams the streets of America today, and is a clear example of the impacts of German immigration to not only Chicago, but the Midwest, and even America as a whole. In the year 1929, Oscar Mayer added the signature yellow band to their meat as "halo for high-quality meat" (Oscar Mayer). Today, walking down the aisles of the grocery store, the yellow packaging is a staple of the meat section. Oscar Mayer has fundamentally changed the way in which Americans eat (Bring Home the Bacon). Before Oscar Mayer, Americans did not eat foods like bologna or hotdogs, but today, it is hard to imagine America without them. The Kraft Heinz Company is another example of the impact of German-American founded companies that have changed the game for Americans. Both brands were started by German Americans, and have made major innovations in food production and sale. Since their merger in 2015, the Kraft Heinz Company has become the "third-largest food and beverage company in North America and the fifth-largest food and beverage company in the world" (About Heinz Kraft). This shows the massive impact that German immigrants have had on Americans. It is nearly impossible to walk through the aisles of a grocery store without passing a Kraft Heinz product, and that just goes to show how ingrained these brands are into American culture.

These core parts of the American identity are so ingrained into society, it is often easy to forget where they came from. Despite this, it is impossible to argue that American culture would be what it is today without the influence of Oscar Mayer and other German brands. In conclusion, my bologna has a second name, and it's M-A-Y-E-R.



**Presented by the Indiana
German Heritage Society**

Paul Gerhard (1607-1676) was a German theologian, teacher, and hymn writer. His below **Sommerlied** was written in 1656 and consists of 15 verses. Here are the first three which praise the beauty of summer.

Auf Deutsch

Geh aus, mein Herz, und suche Freud
in dieser schönen Sommerszeit
an deines Gottes Gaben.
Schau an der schönen Gärten Zier
und siehe wie sie dir und mir
sich ausgeschmücket haben,
sich ausgeschmücket haben.

Die Bäume stehen vollen Laub
das Erdreich decket seinen Staub
mit einem grünen Kleide;
Narzissus und die Tulipan
die ziehen sich viel schöner an
als Salomonis Seide,
als Salomonis Seide.

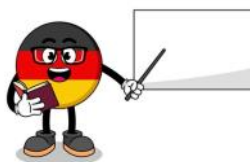
Die Lerche schwingt sich in die Luft,
das Täublein fliegt aus seiner Kluft
und macht sich in die Wälder.
Die hochbegabte Nachtigall
ergötzt und füllt mit ihrem Schall
Berg, Hügel, Tal und Felder,
Berg, Hügel, Tal und Felder.



In English

Go out, my heart, and seek joy
in this beautiful summertime
in the gifts of your God.
Look at the beautiful gardens
and see how they adorned themselves for you and me,
and see how they adorned themselves for you and me.

The trees are in full foliage,
the earth is covering its dust
with a green dress.
Narcissus and Tulips
are dressed much more beautifully
than the silk of Salomon,
than the silk of Salomon.



The lark flies into the air,
the dove flies out of its cliff
and makes its way into the forest.
The highly talented nightingale
delights and fills with its sound
mountain, hill, valley, and fields,
mountain, hill, valley, and fields.



Indiana German Heritage Society Mission:

The mission of the IGHS is to understand, promote, and celebrate the contributions of German-speaking immigrants and their descendants to the multi-cultural heritage of the state and the nation.

We are guided by a commitment to learn and an obligation to share our knowledge with accuracy, integrity, and respect for all heritages.

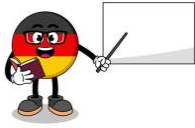


Indiana German Heritage Society Vision:

The vision of the Indiana German Heritage Society is to be the catalyst for the preservation and celebration of the state's German-American heritage, and to support groups and communities in activities that coincide with our mission.



Some of the Indiana Universities and Colleges offering degrees in German!



Wabash.



Learn More About Your German History & Heritage



Search Amazon BOOKS for “NCSA Literatur”

NCSA Literatur

The publishing arm of the Indiana German Heritage Society, the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies at IUPUI, and the Irvington Historical Society

IGHS NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

In order to get our newsletter out to the membership on schedule, please submit your stories, events and pictures by the listed deadlines:

- Issue #1 (Winter) **December 1**
- Issue #2 (Spring) **February 1**
- Issue #3 (Summer) **May 1**
- Issue #4 (Fall) **August 1**

Celebrating 41 Years



1984 – 2025





Indiana German Heritage Society

Hoosier German - American Of The Year

Nominations Sought for 2025 Hoosier German-American of the Year

Each fall, the IGHS recognizes an individual or group who has made a significant contribution to the cultural and historical heritage of the Hoosier German-American community. This individual or group must have been active in the German-American Community of their area for a minimum of 10 years.

Nominations are now being accepted from the entire IGHS membership for The Hoosier German-American of the Year for 2025.

Please send us the name of the individual or group you would like to nominate for this prestigious award. Be sure to include an explanation of why you believe that this individual or group should be chosen to receive this award. Please send your name, address, telephone number, and email address along with your nomination to:

IGHS Awards Committee
401 E. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

or email to: ighsmembership@gmail.com

Nominations are due by August 1.

The award will be presented at the German-American Day presentation held in October at the Athenaeum German Fest, with proclamations by the Governor and the Mayor. The recipient will receive a plaque and the recipient's name will be permanently displayed at the Deutsche Haus/Athenaeum.

For information pertaining to the requirements for Annual Hoosier-German American Award please go to <https://www.ighs.org/hoosier-german-american-of-the-year.html>

PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE IGHS HOOSIER GERMAN-AMERICAN AWARD INCLUDE:

- 2007 Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
- 2008 Dr. Carl Sputh
- 2009 Dr. Eberhard Reichmann
- 2010 Reverend Arthur Schwenk
- 2011 Professor Ron Warner
- 2012 Hon. Senator Richard Lugar
- 2013 Dr. Ruth Reichmann
- 2014 Jürgen Jungbauer
- 2015 Othmar Grueninger
- 2016 Dr. Giles Hoyt
- 2017 Matthias Hilger
- 2018 Sven Schumacher
- 2019 William Selm
- 2020 Friends of Wyneken, Inc.
- 2021 Dr. Claudia Grossmann
- 2022 Indianapolis Liederkrantz
- 2023 Gerhard Klemm
- 2024 Patricia Goepfrich and
Jasper Deutscher Verein

**Today is a good time
to renew your
IGHS membership**



Indiana German Heritage Society

Membership Form

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please enter / renew my membership:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit \$50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time Student \$5.00
(with teacher's signature) | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Rate \$15.00 | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> German Teacher \$5.00 | |

Second person for family membership

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____

Country: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

I would like to receive the IGHS Newsletter: E-Mail US Mail

Specific Interests:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Exchanges /
Sister Cities | <input type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> German Language Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Materials |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Traditions & Folklore |

Knowledge of German Language: None Some Fluent

Knowledge of Old German Script (Sütterlin): None Some Good

I am willing to help with activities (Circle one): Yes No

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____.

This is a gift membership. Name of person providing gift membership:

Please make checks payable to: **Indiana German Heritage Society**. Send your membership form and payment to Indiana German Heritage Society, Membership Chair, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

To join or renew online, go to IGHS.org!





INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR



STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

All Stammtisch programs are presented in English, are free of charge, and are open to everyone. The programs begin at 7:30 PM. Most programs are offered both in person or via Zoom. (see ighs.org)

Registration is required for all Zoom events. Use the links above to register in advance for each program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Wednesday 13 August:

Topic: Indianapolis Liederkrantz German Band in German Park

IGHS members, guests, and members of the public will be serenaded by marches, waltzes, polkas, Volkslieder, etc. performed by the Indianapolis Liederkrantz German Band in German Park at 8600 South Meridian St. Patrick Rutledge is the Kapelmeister.

Wednesday 10 September:

Topic: IGHS scholarship recipient presentations at the Athenaeum, Indianapolis, IN.

IGHS awards a number of scholarships to high school and college students to assist them with their study trips in Germany and Austria. ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Iht9PJXSQYik-mFhAij5zQ>

Wednesday 8 Oktober:

Topic: "Attitudes of Indianapolis German-Americans in 1917" at the Athenaeum, Indianapolis, IN.

Graduate student, Monica Berg, in the Public History program of Indiana University Indianapolis will present. Ms Berg is a Max Kade Fellow.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88399732962?pwd=uPky1yxbfKa6mabRFQIW42GiehC6Jw.1>

Wednesday 12 November:

Topic: Cultural Enhancement Fund Presentations at the Athenaeum, Indianapolis, IN.

IGHS will hear reports of several groups that received grants to complete projects involving German heritage.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CndZoXG4T3CYG2y7pqOAbg>

10 December, Wednesday:

Topic: Weihnachtsliederkrantz und christbaumschmuckaustausch at the Carmel Christkindlmarkt

IGHS will meet outside on the Marktplatz of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt with members of the Indianapolis Liederkrantz to sing sing, sing, the best Christmas songs in the world including Vom Himmel Hoch, Alle Jahre Wieder, and Still Nacht, Heilige Nacht. Bring a wrapped ornament (\$5-10 value) place it in the basket and take another home. DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!!!



*Did You Miss One of Our
Stammtisch Presentations?
Or Do You Just Want to Hear One
Again?
Now you can!*

Estate Planning?
Please consider IGHS
<https://www.ighs.org/estate-planning.html>

Dankeschön

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Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Indy International Festival 2025 Architecture Around the World

SAVE THE DATE: November 13th, 14th, & 15th

Held at the Johnson County Fairgrounds as part of our "Touring the Counties" initiative.

Inhalt

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DEUTSCHE SAMSTAGSSCHULE	1
HIGH SCHOOL ESSAYS	3, 10, & 12
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NEW BOARD DIRECTOR BIO	10
PALATINES	8
TRACING YOUR GERMAN ROOTS	4
WAPPEN VON HAMBURG SHIP	9

